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"56. Owing to the large expenditure on subsidising the sale of food-grains and to the introduction of Prohibition and other ameliorative measures such as village reconstruction and Harijan uplift, the extension of compulsory primary education, etc., deficits on Revenue Account are anticipated in the current year and the budget year. These deficits have to be met by drawing on the Revenue Reserve Fund. The balance at the credit of this Fund on the 1st April 1948 is expected to be Rs. 22·31 crores. I am sure that the House will agree that it will not be wise to allow revenue deficits to recur regularly in subsequent years and rely merely on meeting them from the balance in the Revenue Reserve Fund, as that would result in a very difficult and unsatisfactory position as soon as that limited balance had been exhausted. Efforts will be made to augment the Provincial revenues by additional taxation and by other means. The Government hope also to effect some economy in expenditure as a result of the labours of the Reorganization Committee. So far, there has been no fall in the levels of prices and employment resulting in reduction in revenue. In the absence of any serious economic depression or any serious natural calamity such as famine or floods, we may reasonably hope that we shall be able to make progress towards balancing the budget in future years. No one regrets more than myself that there are many crying needs for which it has not been possible to provide adequate funds in this budget, for example, provision of medical and public health relief in villages, but I must impress on the House that it is necessary to regulate our expenditure with reference to our revenue if we are to maintain our financial credit unimpaired. I should like to quote at this point an observation by a French economist: "There are some sciences," he says, "so lofty and serene that they leave in peace those who are not concerned with them, but Finance is not one of those; it has a way of taking a terrible revenge upon nations and individuals who neglect or despise it." I submit that it is essential to regulate our progress with our ameliorative schemes according to our financial position and the resources available, and not land ourselves in a financial morass by attempting to press on too hurriedly with them before we have built up the necessary resources. Conclusion

"I must not omit to thank the Finance Secretary, Dr. Dodwell, and his staff for the labour they have taken in preparing this budget so carefully and promptly."

"With these words, Sir, I commend to the acceptance of the House, the revised estimate for 1946–7 and the budget estimates for 1947–8."

III.—BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE.

Mr. PRESIDENT :—"Before I adjourn the House, may I know from the Government what their plan is with regard to piloting the Public Order Bill through both the Houses?

The Hon. Sri T. PRAKASAM :—"I am unable to say what our plans are straightway regarding the Public Order Bill. The other House is going to sit again at 5-30 for the introduction of the Bill and proceed day after day with it."

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Mr. PRESIDENT :—" How long are you likely to take in the other House to finish this business."

The Hon. Sri T. PRAKASAM :—" Our original estimate was four or five days. We thought that on the sixth this House may sit for the Public Order Bill and still I am of the same opinion.

Mr. PRESIDENT :—" I will draw the attention of the Hon. Premier to the fact, that he will have to get the Bill passed in both the Houses by about the 8th. I would like at least some notice to hon. members, after the Bill has been passed in the other House. I would like to know from hon. members if they will be satisfied with at least a day's notice."

Dr. SYED TAJUDDIN SAHIB :—" I do not think, Sir, that a day's notice will be sufficient."

Mr. PRESIDENT :—" If a day's notice is insufficient, I am afraid we cannot get through the business. I raised this question so that hon. members may not be taken unawares."

K. T. M. AHMED IBRAHIM SAHIB Bahadur :—" Always, we are being pressed with urgent things and notice is denied to us."

Mr. PRESIDENT :—" I am trying to get as much notice as is possible."

Dr. SYED TAJUDDIN SAHIB :—" This is a very important measure and naturally, we wish to devote more time and attention on it than the time allowed to us permits us."

Mr. PRESIDENT :—" I have requested the other House through the Prime Minister to see if they could not get through this work by the evening of the 4th, in which case, I would give notice to hon. members on the 5th and 6th, take up the business on the 7th and 8th and finish the consideration of the Bill on the 8th. Will the Premier say if that will be possible?"

The Hon. Sri T. PRAKASAM :—" It may be possible to finish as observed by you, Sir. But everything depends upon the support which Government gets from members. If members request, as Dr. Syed Tajuddin does, more time saying that a day's notice will not be enough as the measure is a very important one, then we may not be able to finish the business in the time mentioned by you."

K. T. M. AHMED IBRAHIM SAHIB Bahadur :—" May I know, regarding the Budget whether we are proceeding with the discussion. We have been hearing of some storm in the party. I was wondering whether the whole process will have to be gone through again."

The Hon. Sri T. PRAKASAM :—" Changes when they come, they must be gone through."

Mr. PRESIDENT :—" We will go on with the work without concerning ourselves whether changes are going to come about or not. May I take it as finally settled that the Bill be passed in the other House by the 4th and we meet on the 6th?"

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Dr. SYED TAJUDDIN SAHIB :—" The Hon. Premier said ' 4th or 5th '."

Mr. PRESIDENT :—" I propose to adjourn to the 6th evening, so that if the Bill comes, we will go through it on the 6th. We do not sit for any other purpose on the 6th and we meet on the 7th, 8th, 10th and 11th for discussion of the Budget as these days are allotted for that purpose. If, for any reason, the Bill is not ready, we meet, do some questions and go. I hope the Premier will try to see that the Bill is brought through in time with the co-operation and support of the other House. If as suggested, the Bill is finished there on the 4th, the members will practically have, two days notice as we are meeting only on 6th evening."

K. T. M. AHMED IBRAHIM SAHIB Bahadur :—" The question of time is very very important as the measure is an important one."

Mr. PRESIDENT :—" I have not yet come to any definite conclusion. I was only thinking aloud with you so far as the Bill is concerned and the notice required for it. We have to sit from eleven to five on the 7th, 8th, 10th and 11th. We have to take up the Bill after 5 p.m., and go on till 7-30 p.m. Otherwise, this Bill which is supposed to be very important for the country as a whole cannot be got through. I expect that both sides will co-operate and see that this work is got through. If that is taken to be understood, I will announce my final decision."

K. T. M. AHMED IBRAHIM SAHIB Bahadur :—" The other House is sitting up to five o'clock on the 6th also."

Mr. PRESIDENT :—" We meet on the 6th at 5-30. The Bill may be ready and we will get through it if it comes."

Sri K. MADHAVA MENON :—" It is better, that we have some questions so that in case the Bill is not ready, we may do them and disperse."

Mr. PRESIDENT :—" We will know definitely about it on the 5th. My final conclusion is that we adjourn to the 6th at 5-30 p.m. On the 7th, 8th, 10th and 11th, we also sit at 5-30 and go on with the Public Order Bill till it is finished."

The House adjourned to meet again at 5-30 p.m. on the 6th March 1947.

IV.—PAPER LAID ON THE TABLE OF THE HOUSE.

Press Note on the Cabinet Salaries Committee's Report, 1946.